

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are now present in this application.

Claims 1 and 18 have been amended, and claims 19 and 20 have been presented. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 stands objected to for an informality. Because this informality has been addressed, it is respectfully requested that this objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over LU, U.S. Patent 6,780,124. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over LU in view of the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over LU in view of SU, U.S. Patent 5,712,800. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers claims 10-17 to contain allowable subject matter. These claims should remain in condition for allowance. Regarding independent claims 1 and 18, a golf club head is recited. This golf club head includes the body having a recess and a striking plate having a perimeter. A plurality of positioning protrusions engage the perimeter of the striking plate with the recession of the body to form a welding portion. Engagement of the protrusion between the striking plate and the recession of the body prevents the striking face from falling off said recession of the body after the assembly step. This will aid the welding operation.

In contrast, the LU patent fails to disclose positioning protrusions but instead has supporting rods 21. However, the supporting rods 21 require forming a series of engaging

notches 121 such that the supporting rods 21 are inconsistent with the positioning protrusions claimed in the present invention. It is important to note that the striking plate 20 of LU can easily fall from the golf club head 10 in the assembling welding steps, since there is no tight engagement of the supporting rods 21 with engaging notches 121. The Examiner has alleged that it would be obvious to use snap fitting with plastic deformation in order to hold the striking face in position while being welded. However, there is no such suggestion in the LU reference for such an arrangement. The loose engagement of the positioning protrusions with the engaging notches of LU is not consistent with the tighter engagement of the protrusions of the present invention. This engagement between the striking plate and the body will prevent the striking plate from falling from the recess of the body as set forth in claim 1.

As seen in Fig. of the second embodiment of LU, the supporting rods 21 rest above the striking plate 20. This second embodiment of Fig. 5 is different from the first embodiment of LU, in that the flange 12 includes an inclined face 123, which is configured such that, when the flange 12 is molten during the high energy welding, connecting material 13 is apt to fill into the gap between the striking plate 20 and the golf club head 10. The early embodiments as shown in Figs. 3 and 4 also disclose rods 21 which sit above the face of the striking plate 20. Thus, the Examiner's suggestion that the rods 21 of LU could be snap-fit is incorrect. The rods 21 merely rest in the engaging notches 121. It would not be snap-fit up against the inner perimeter delineating the recess of the body. Moreover, as recited in dependent claims 19 and 20, these rods 121 are not in the same plane as the striking plate.

The patent to SU would not overcome the above-noted deficiencies of the LU reference. Also, the background of the present application would not provide any of the missing teachings.

The utilized prior art fails to disclose or suggest a golf club head having deformable protrusions to tightly engage the body with a striking plate to avoid falling off in the welding step or any other operating steps after the assembling operation. It is respectfully submitted that the LU reference alone, or as modified by the utilized prior art, would neither suggest nor render obvious the claimed invention. As such, it is respectfully requested that the 35 USC 103 rejection now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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